GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2350
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2004
NEW MOLECULE FOR TUBERCULOSIS
Bhadana Shri Avtar Singh

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Science and Industrial Research(CSIR) and Lupine Ltd. have jointly discovered a new molecule, called LL4858-SUBOTERN, which can reduce the treatment time of tuberculosis from the present 6-12 months to only 2 months;

(b) if so, whether the multidisciplinary group of experts has since given clearance to this molecule based drug for use on humans ; and

(c) if so, by when this new drug is likely to be introduced in the market ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT

(KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Yes Sir. A new molecule for treating tuberculosis has been discovered by Lupin Limited , the industrial partner , in a project supported by CSIR under New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) Scheme. This molecule is named as SUDOTERB. LL4858 is infact a combination of SUDOTERB, Isoniazid, Rifampicin and Pyrazinamide. This combination in animal studies was found to have reduced the treatment time from the present six to eight months to two months.

(b)&(c) The Drug Controller General of India(DCGI) has given clearance to the molecule for Phase-I clinical trials in humans. The molecule is still not a drug and it may take about 5 to 6 years to introduce the compound as drug, if all the cinical studies are successful.